



2 April 2026

## **Medicine Supply Alert Notice**

### **Chlordiazepoxide 5mg and 10mg capsules**

**Priority: Level 2\***

**Valid until: mid-July 2026**

#### **Issue**

1. Chlordiazepoxide 5mg and 10mg capsules (Viatris) are out of stock until mid-July 2026.
2. Chlordiazepoxide 10mg capsules (Kent Pharma) have been discontinued.
3. Chlordiazepoxide 5mg capsules (Kent Pharma) will be discontinued from 31 March 2026.
4. Chlordiazepoxide 5mg and 10mg capsules (Crescent) remain in stock although there are insufficient 5mg capsules to meet the full demand.
5. Alternative oral benzodiazepines remain available.

#### **Advice and Actions**

6. Clinicians treating alcohol withdrawal should:
  - not initiate new patients on chlordiazepoxide 5mg and 10mg capsules unless there is sufficient supply available for the entire withdrawal treatment plan;
  - reserve stock of chlordiazepoxide 5mg and 10mg capsules for patients who are part way through an alcohol detox to enable them to complete the detox in line with the treatment plan;
  - check if clinical protocols need revising to include use of diazepam and ensure teams become familiar with prescribing the regimen (see Additional Information), and
  - if necessary, seek advice from specialist alcohol treatment services for more complex cases, and in the presence of significant or suspected impairment of liver function, consult specialists experienced in the management of patients with liver disease for advice on choice of benzodiazepine.
7. Clinicians using chlordiazepoxide to treat anxiety should:
  - not initiate new patients on chlordiazepoxide 5mg and 10mg capsules;
  - review existing patients and offer them, with support, the opportunity to taper down and discontinue treatment; and
  - seek advice from specialist mental health team if there is difficulty managing the discontinuation of chlordiazepoxide.

#### **Additional Information**

\*<https://www.nss.nhs.scot/media/1842/medicine-supply-alert-notices-definitions-of-classifications-21-october-2019.pdf>

## Clinical Information

8. Chlordiazepoxide and diazepam are licensed for short term use (2-4 weeks only) for the symptomatic relief of anxiety that is severe, disabling or subjecting the individual to unacceptable distress occurring alone or in association with insomnia or short-term psychosomatic, organic or psychotic illness. They are also licensed for treatment of muscle spasm of varied aetiology and symptomatic relief of acute alcohol withdrawal.

### Chlordiazepoxide use as an anxiolytic

9. If there are patients who have been treated for anxiety, they should be reviewed and deprescribing discussed.
10. For chronic users of chlordiazepoxide who have agreed to discontinue treatment, a switch to equivalent dose of diazepam and a slow withdrawal is usually recommended ([see CKS guidance](#)).

### Alcohol withdrawal

11. In alcohol withdrawal, a long-acting benzodiazepine, such as chlordiazepoxide or diazepam, is recommended to attenuate alcohol withdrawal symptoms. Refer to NICE guidance on alcohol use disorders for managing harmful drinking and physical complications. UK clinical guidelines for alcohol treatment contains [example regimens](#) in section 10.7 for planned, fixed-dose alcohol withdrawal (moderate dependence) using chlordiazepoxide and diazepam.

### Links to further information

- [SmPC: Chlordiazepoxide](#)
- [SmPC: Diazepam tablet](#)
- [BNF: Alcohol dependence](#)
- [NICE guidance \(CG15\): Alcohol-use disorders: diagnosis, assessment and management of harmful drinking \(high-risk drinking\) and alcohol dependence](#)
- [NICE guidance \(CG110\): Alcohol-use disorders: diagnosis and management of physical complications](#)
- [Clinical guidelines for alcohol treatment - Guidance - GOV.UK](#)
- [BNF: Hypnotics and anxiolytics](#)
- [BNF: Benzodiazepine dose equivalences](#)
- [NICE guidance \(CG113\): Generalised anxiety disorder and panic disorder](#)
- [CKS: Benzodiazepine and z-drug withdrawal](#)
- [SPS: Oral benzodiazepines and choosing equivalent doses](#)
- [The Maudsley Deprescribing Guidelines \(subscription required\)](#)
- [Detainees with substance use disorders in police custody: Guidelines for clinical management \(5th edition\) - FFLM](#)
- [Ashton manual](#)
- [Quality prescribing for Benzodiazepines and z-drugs: guide for improvement 2024 to 2027 - gov.scot](#)

## **Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) website**

12. The UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in conjunction with the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) have launched an online Medicines Supply Tool, which provides up to date information about medicine supply issues. To access the online Medicines Supply Tool you need to register with the [SPS website](#). Registration for access to the website is available to UK healthcare professionals and organisations providing NHS healthcare. The tool is located under the Tools tab and then click on the Medicines Supply option.
13. Prescribers, pharmacy professionals, and pharmacy procurement leads in Scotland are encouraged to register with the SPS website and use its Medicine Supply Tool to stay up to date concerning medicines supply disruptions. Please be aware that while medicines supply issues will appear on the SPS website, some of the recommended actions may not always be appropriate / relevant within the Scottish context.

## **Enquiries**

14. Enquiries from Health Boards or healthcare professionals should be directed in the first instance to [PharmacyTeam@gov.scot](mailto:PharmacyTeam@gov.scot) (primary care) or [NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot](mailto:NSS.NHSSMedicineShortages@nhs.scot) (secondary care).